

1009836.A02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masahiro SAMEI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1756

Appln. No. : 10/576,307(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014649)

I.A. Filed : October 5, 2004

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No. : 4488

For : FIXING APPARATUS

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was previously filed on July 6, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action dispatched on January 4, 2008, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-514738, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-148983 A;
- (2) International Patent Publication No. WO 03/039198 A1, together with an English language Abstract and a partial English language translation, and patent family members U.S. Patent No. US 7,122,768 B2 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0099650 A1; and

- (3) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-55549 A, together with an English language Abstract and a partial English language translation.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicants note that noted document (1) was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on July 6, 2006. Thus, a copy of this document is not provided herewith.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. Patent Publication are not enclosed herewith. However, if copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of above-noted foreign and international documents (2) and (3), including the noted English language Abstracts and translations, are attached hereto, and all of the documents (but for document (1)) are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. Copies of the Japanese Office Action and a English language translation are also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

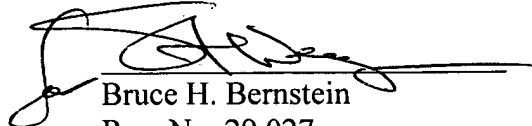
Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, Applicants hereby certify that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information

P29836.A02

Disclosure Statement, and thus no fee is required to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masahiro SAMEI et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

April 2, 2008  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman  
Reg. No. 31,438